

**Blessed Sacrament School**  
**Young Authors 2010-2011 Program**  
*Sponsored by the BSS Parent/School Association*

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February 2012

Dear Students,

It's that time, again---time to write!

BSS is once again participating in the Illinois Young Authors Conference by sponsoring a writing competition for all grade levels. The goal of our participation is to make it fun and give each student a unique opportunity to practice writing.

The Illinois Young Authors Conference has a long history. It is a celebration of the written work of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The purpose of the statewide conference, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to encourage and improve students' abilities in writing, reading, listening and sharing, and to recognize the accomplishments of young authors.

Conference participants are the winners of our writing competition. BSS will provide the opportunity for four students to attend the conference, one from each age level, K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8, who will be selected based on judging of their original manuscripts. Students in kindergarten through second grade may participate in our school-wide Young Authors on a voluntary basis. Third through eighth grade students will be creating manuscripts as a class assignment.

Other than meeting the deadline (Thursday, March 1, or earlier, if your teacher chooses), there are very few requirements for your manuscript. You can write about anything you desire, in any form you wish. Your manuscript might be a first-person account of a wonderful experience, a story that you made up, an exciting mystery or a set of poems you created. You can illustrate your manuscript, but you don't have to do so. It has to have a cover, but you can design it on your own.

I encourage each of you to participate. (I know some of you have already starting working on your manuscripts in your classrooms!) We will support you throughout the process, so don't hesitate to ask your teacher, or any other teacher, for guidance.

Happy writing!

Mrs. Wear